



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : Paul Dzialakiewicz *et al.*
Application No. : 10/649,253
Filed : 08/27/2003
Title : PROPORTIONAL VALVE ACTUATING APPARATUS
Group/Art Unit : 3751
Examiner : Steven O. Douglas
Docket No. : SBC0020

MAIL STOP ISSUE FEE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

COMMENTS TO EXAMINER'S STATEMENT
OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Sir:

Applicant submits these comments to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance attached to the Notice of Allowability issued on July 14, 2005. Applicant concurs with the Examiner that none of the prior art of record, alone or in combination, teach the features of Applicant's invention of a solenoid operated valve actuating apparatus comprising an armature biased by at least one spring member into contact with a movable fluid control member or the features that the diameter of a central opening of a core member adjacent a second shoulder is greater than the diameter of the central opening adjacent the first shoulder.

Applicant notes, however, that there are other novel features of the invention and that the limitations cited by the Examiner are not required in all of the claims. Applicant further notes that the claims are restricted only by the limitations contained therein and the equivalents entitled to by law.

Additionally, independent claims 1, 23, and 33 have been allowed without amendment and are entitled to the full scope of protection available under the doctrine of equivalents. Applicant further notes that, although claims 11 and 12 were amended during prosecution, certain limitations therein are entitled to the full scope of protection afforded by the doctrine of equivalents and that limited equivalents should be available under the law for the limitations that were added.

Respectfully submitted,



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